

IN THE CLAIMS:

02 1 104. (Amended) A method for the production of gold metal particles, comprising the steps of:

- a) generating an aerosol of droplets from a liquid wherein said liquid comprises a gold metal precursor;
- b) moving said droplets in a carrier gas;
- c) removing a portion of droplets from said aerosol, wherein said removed droplets have an aerodynamic diameter greater than a preselected maximum diameter; and
- d) heating said droplets to remove liquid therefrom and form gold metal particles comprising at least about 50 weight percent gold metal, wherein said droplets have a size distribution such that at least about 80 weight percent of said droplets have a size of from about 1 μm to about 5 μm .

Please cancel Claim 111.